

I claim:

1. A support for mounting on a wheel rim inside a vehicle tire, the support being capable of supporting a tire in the event of a drop in inflation pressure, wherein the support is an article having a composition comprising rubber and a metal salt of a carboxylic acid, wherein the composition is cured with a peroxide curing agent.
2. A wheel comprising the support of claim 1.
3. The support of claim 1, wherein the rubber is comprised of a dienic unsaturated elastomer.
4. The support of claim 1, wherein the rubber is comprised of a rubber selected from the group consisting of copolymers of butyl acrylonitrile and copolymers of butyl paramethyl styrene.
5. The support of claim 1 wherein the rubber is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, styrene-butadiene rubber, and mixtures thereof.
6. The support of claim 1, wherein the metal salts is selected from the group consisting of di- and tri-acrylates and methacrylates and mixtures thereof.

7. The support of claim 1, wherein the metal salt of the carboxylic acid is zinc dimethacrylate.
8. The support of claim 1, wherein the peroxide is selected from the group  
5 consisting of di-cumyl peroxide, bis-(tert-butyl peroxy)-diisopropyl benzene, t-butyl perbenzoate, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di-tert-butylperoxide hexane and mixtures thereof.
9. The support of claim 1, further comprising wherein the composition includes a  
10 filler, and the filler is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, silica, aluminas, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum silicate, clays, calcium carbonate, glass fibers, microspheres, polymeric fibers, and mixtures thereof.
10. The support of claim 9, wherein the filler is present in an amount from 0 to 120  
15 parts per hundred parts by weight of elastomer.
11. The support of claim 9, wherein the filler is present in an amount from 0 to 60 parts per hundred parts by weight of elastomer.
12. The support of claim 1, further comprising sulfur in an amount from 0 to 2.5  
20 parts per hundred parts by weight of rubber.

13. The support of Claim 1, wherein the support comprises:

(a) a substantially cylindrical base, intended to conform to the wheel rim,

(b) a substantially cylindrical crown intended to contact the tire tread in the event of a drop in inflation pressure and to leave a clearance relative to the tread at

5 nominal pressure, and

(c) an annular body connecting the base to the crown, the annular body comprising a circumferentially continuous supporting element with a circumferential median plane, wherein the supporting element comprises:

(i) a plurality of partitions extending axially on each side of the  
10 circumferential median plane and distributed around the circumference of the support, and

(ii) joining elements extending substantially circumferentially on one of the sides of the support, each joining element connecting the respective ends of two adjacent partitions which are arranged on the side of the support, the joining elements  
15 being arranged alternately in succession on each side of the partitions, wherein, between two adjacent partitions, the joining elements are mutually supported by a rib extending from the crown to the base of the support, such that the joining elements form a continuous joining wall in the form of a gusset extending along the side of the support.

14. A support intended to be mounted on a wheel rim inside a tire equipping a vehicle, in order to support the tread strip of the tire in the event of a loss of inflation pressure, said support being characterized in that it is comprised of a rubber composition comprising a metal salt of a carboxylic acid, and in that it includes: a
- 5 substantially cylindrical base intended to fit around the wheel rim, a substantially cylindrical cap intended to come into contact with the tread strip in the event of a loss of pressure, and leaving a clearance with respect hereto at nominal pressure, and an annular body connecting said base and said cap, said body having a plurality of cavities directed substantially axially and emerging in that face of said body which is
- 10 intended to be placed on the outboard side of the vehicle
- and which extend axially as far as at least halfway into said body without passing through it.
- 15 15. The support of claim 1 comprising 5 to 70 parts of metal salt of a carboxylic acid per hundred parts by weight of rubber.
16. The support of claim 1 comprising 10 to 60 parts of metal salt of a carboxylic acid per hundred parts by weight of rubber.
- 20 17. The support of claim 1 comprising 20 to 50 parts of metal salt of a carboxylic acid per hundred parts by weight of rubber.

18. The support of claim 9 comprising 20 to 120 parts of a mixture of silica and carbon black, in any ratio, per hundred parts by weight of rubber.

19. The support of claim 1 comprising 0 to 80% by weight of polybutadiene.

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20. The support of claim 1 comprising 20 to 100% by weight of natural rubber.